



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
July 15, 2008

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George Blanchard District I, Chairman

Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II

Mr. Mario Suarez, District III

Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV

Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Dale K. Surrett, Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council & Mr. Bradley A. Norton, County Attorney present.

Press:

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV, WLOS TV WSPA TV & WSNW Radio.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler–Anderson Independent, Brett McLaughlin-Daily Journal and Chad Dorsett-WSNW Radio.

Call to Order:

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Lyles led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Crumpton abstained] that the minutes from the June 26, 2008 workshop meeting with the OJRSA, June 26, regular meeting and the July 1, 2008 regular meeting all be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Luther Lyle addressed Council to request a letter stating that insurance will be provided for the “Spirit of Oconee” monument. The letter is required in order to receive a \$10,000 grant.

Mr. Tom Marcovich addressed Council regarding his concerns about wording in Ordinance #2008-13, the amending ordinance for building codes.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding his concern that council will commit the taxpayers to pay for capital projects with bonds.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding his concerns about council's activities for the remainder of 2008.

Extended Public Comment Session:

No citizen signed up for Extended Public Comment at this meeting.

Archer Company presentation: Compensation/Classification Services:

Mr. Surrett introduced Dr. Ernest Archer and his wife Sally to those present and thanked them for coming from Rock Hill, SC, to make their presentation to council at this meeting. Mr. Surrett noted that during the budget process this year that review of the county's compensation and classifications were identified as needing review along with tying job descriptions to the job performance evaluation forms.

Dr. Archer reviewed his personal experience and that of his organization. He reviewed other counties and municipalities in South Carolina who have benefited from their services. Dr. Archer presented through a PowerPoint presentation [NOT filed with these minutes] some of the details regarding how they develop and implement a compensation/classification study. In addition, Dr. Archer gave a brief presentation [NOT filed with these minutes] regarding services his company can provide to assist in developing meaningful job evaluations based on specific job descriptions.

Council thanked Dr. Archer and his team for their time in providing council with their thorough presentation.

Oconee Alliance presentation: "2008 Oconee by Choice: Vision Plan 2008-2028":

Mr. Jim Gadd, Oconee Alliance Executive Director, read from a prepared statement [filed with these minutes] and reviewed the components in the handout "2008 Oconee by Choice: Vision Plan 2008-2028" [filed with these minutes]. He reviewed the six key areas and informed those present that it is time for implementation of the vision. Mr. Gadd noted that chairpersons have been appointed for each of the six key areas with the exception of "an educated choice". Mr. Suarez provided Mr. Gadd with a prospective candidate. Discussion followed. Mr. Blanchard questioned how the priorities were determined and was informed that the order was compiled based on the frequency of answers. Mr. Gadd also stated that they received in excess of 2,000 responses to their surveys. Council thanked Mr. Gadd and his group for their hard work and informative report.

Ordinances for Approval:

Ordinance 2008-13:

Mr. Norton outlined the ordinance noting that the fees included could be pulled out of the ordinance if Council desired and passed through a Resolution which would require only one reading at this time and in the future when the fee scheduled needs to be amended. Discussion followed. Mr. Norton was directed to provide a revised ordinance and resolution along with the original for council's consideration at the August 5, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-13** "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1998-10, THE BUILDING CODE ORDINANCE OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA" be adopted on second reading.

Items for Consideration by Council:

Memorandum of Agreement: SC Department of Juvenile Justice:

Mr. Surrentt outlined the details of the Memorandum of Agreement noting that the county would be charged a daily fee of \$50.00 per juvenile.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the administrator to execute the Memorandum of Agreement as provided with the SC Department of Juvenile Justice for a period covering July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Bid #07-35: Drilling & Blasting for the Rock Quarry:

Mr. Surrentt outlined the details of the bid and contract noting that three companies responded to the sealed bid. The contract period is for up to 5 years, noting that it is not subject to review each year by council. In addition, he noted that billing will be in accordance with the unit prices listed on the Bid Tab.

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to award the drilling and blasting contract to Orica, USA for an estimated amount of \$350,000.00 for FY 2008-2009, with the option to renew for four additional on-year periods.

Economic Development: AdvancedSC Economic Development Funding Grant Request:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 to authorize Economic Development to apply for the AdvanceSC Economic Development Funding Grant to be used to translate select portions of the website into German, Chinese and Spanish.

Emergency Services: FY 08 Emergency Operations Center Grant Request:

Mr. Surrentt outlined the grant request noting that "in-kind" describes equipment and services provided by the county that would be counted toward the match for this grant. Mr. Blanchard asked that accurate records be maintained on this grant to ensure that the county receives all the credit due.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 to authorize Emergency Services to apply for the FY 08 Emergency Operations Center Grant be used to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure and interoperable Emergency Operation Centers with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs.

Council Committee Reports:

Transportation:

Mr. Crumpton made the following report on the meeting held July 9, 2008:

- Pointe West Subdivision / Cherry Road: The developer appeared before the committee requesting that the county accept a .25 section of Cherry Road from the State and that the county maintain the road in the future. The committee requested that the developer provide a written proposal for review by full council [filed with these minutes]. Council took no action at this meeting after discussion and referred the matter back to committee for action.
- Riverwood Subdivision / Valley Farm Road: The committee voted to direct the Road Department to exercise legislative intent to allow construction of Valley Farm Road at a twenty foot width. Council concurred.
- Next meeting: July 23, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee Report:

Mr. Blanchard had no report at this meeting.

Budget, Finance & Administration:

Mr. Ables had not report at this meeting.

Planning & Economic Development:

Mr. Suarez had no report at this meeting.

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:

Mr. Lyles made the following report on the meeting held July 9, 2008:

- Discussed possible uses for the Brown Building
- Discussed progress on the Animal Shelter
- Discussed progress at the Airport
- Discussed the “Spirit of Oconee” monument

No future meeting has been scheduled.

Commission / Board Reports to Council:

There were no reports presented at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments:

Emergency Management Commission:

Mr. Ables had no announcement at this meeting for the District V open seat.

Administrator's Report:

SCAC: J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award:

Mr. Surrett noted that he has submitted on behalf of Oconee County a submission for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award entitled "It's Not Good – You Don't Want to Slip in the Polls". The submission outlines the efforts of the staff in January 2008 when the Republican primary fell on a day with an ice storm. Mr. Surrett stated he will make a formal presentation at the annual SCAC meeting to be held on Thursday, July 31, 2008.

Old Business:

Sewer Project on I85:

Mr. Ables addressed concerns that council has not yet made a decision regarding sewer on I85 and at the commerce park. Mr. Surrett noted that he discussed this matter with the Sewer Authority and that they will be bringing back to council a scope of work to include the septic option along with the package plant option. Discussion followed.

Mr. Blanchard announced a workshop meeting with the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss these matters.

SWAG Agreement:

Mr. Blanchard addressed concerns from citizens and information provided in the local media regarding the signing status for the SWAG agreement. He noted that Seneca and Walhalla have signed the document and that Westminster is meeting at the same time and should sign tonight. Mr. Blanchard stated that there apparently is more than one draft of this document and that if the document signed by all of the municipalities is the one presented for council signature there will be no delay, however; if the document differs in any way council review must take place. He stated that council has not agreed to extend the payment period above and beyond the original time frame in the original SWAG agreement.

New Business:

Mr. Blanchard reminded those present that a special workshop meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. at Jimmy's Family Restaurant in Seneca at which time direction for the remainder of 2008 will be discussed.

Adjourn:

Mr. Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council